

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 047377
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14
PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PA-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 /110 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:ADR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY
-----006468 232208Z /21

O 232146Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
XMT AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

UNCLAS STATE 047377

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB 23, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON
BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 23, 1978:

Q: I WOULD LIKE TO GET BACK TO BERNIE'S QUESTION ABOUT
THE RAID IN NICOSIA.

CAN YOU RECALL WHETHER LAST OCTOBER THE DEPARTMENT MADE
A COMMENT ON THE GERMAN RAID IN SOMALIA?

A: CAN I RECALL WHAT?

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 047377

Q: WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT HAD A COMMENT ON THE GERMAN
RAID IN SOMALIA, THE LUFTHANSA.

A: MY OWN MEMORY OF IT WAS THAT WE UNDOUBTEDLY SAID
SOMETHING, SOME RELIEF THAT THE RELEASE OF THE HOSTAGES,
SOME STATEMENT ABOUT THE ATTITUDES OF THE SOMALI
GOVERNMENT IN THIS THING. I DON'T REMEMBER THE EXACT

TEXT OF IT, BUT I THINK WE DID SAY SOMETHING.

Q: I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU CAN'T SAY SOMETHING IN THIS CASE AT ALL?

A: I DON'T WANT TO STRESS THE OBVIOUS, BUT THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES.

RE PRESS CENSORSHIP:

A: I WILL GIVE YOU A PARALLEL IN ANOTHER COUNTRY WHICH WON'T BE MENTIONED, BUT IT FALLS AT THE TIP OF A HUGE CONTINENT. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS WHICH CAN'T BE DONE BY THE PRESS IN THAT COUNTRY UNLESS THEY WANT TO GO TO JAIL. NOW, THEY CAN DO IT AND GO TO JAIL --

Q: YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT MOZAMBIQUE OR ANGOLA.

A: NO. I WAS THINKING OF SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL IN SIZE THAN THAT.

Q: IT IS A LITTLE MORE SAVAGE THERE.

A: BUT, AT ANY RATE, BUT I AM JUST SUGGESTING TO YOU THAT THAT DOES REQUIRE AN AFFIRMATIVE ACT TO GET INTO THE PRESS.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 047377

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING NEW ON THE STATE OF PLAY IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, SPECIFICALLY WHETHER THE SOMALIS' STATEMENT OF YESTERDAY CONSTITUTES A NEW INTENTION TO --

A: A WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE IN PLACE?

Q: YES.

A: NO.

Q: DOES IT MEAN ANYTHING?

A: I DON'T KNOW WHETHER IT MEANS ANYTHING. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON IT. I HAVE SEEN SIMILAR STATEMENTS BEFORE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW FIGURES ON THE NUMBER OF CUBANS AND RUSSIANS IN ETHIOPIA?

A: I THINK I GAVE YOU THE ONLY FIGURES I HAD. I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING HERE. I HAVE SAID IT BEFORE, THAT THE FIGURES I GIVE YOU WILL STAND, AS I SAID, AT 3,000. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A CONTINUING BUILD-UP AND THAT

PERIODICALLY THAT MAY CHANGE. AND WHAT I AM GOING TO SAY TO YOU NOW IS WHEN I HAVE A CHANGE, I PROMISE YOU I WILL TELL YOU. I MEAN, WHEN WE HAVE A DIFFERENT ASSESSMENT OF NUMBERS. BUT AT THIS POINT, I STILL DON'T HAVE A NEW SET OF NUMBERS.

Q: HODDING, UNLESS I HEARD YOU WRONG, BUT JUST TO CORRECT THE RECORD, YOU SAID THAT THE FIGURES WILL STAND AT 3,000.

A: 5,000. I SAID IT. WHEN I SAID THREE - A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO, I SAID THEY'RE CONTINUING TO BUILD UP. THEY REACHED FIVE - , AND AT SOME POINT I THINK THE SECRETARY SAID FIVE -- BUT AS WE GO.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 047377

VANCE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE047377
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:ADR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780084-0908
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780220/aaaaaqwk.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9d3308d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3499877
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRESS BRIEFING FEB 23, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING, FEBRUARY 23, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US
To: AF POSTS LONDON MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9d3308d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014